



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

**Dedication of a Tablet Marking the Site at  
Decatur, Illinois, of the Old Wigwam  
in which the Illinois State  
Republican Convention of 1860  
was held.**

---

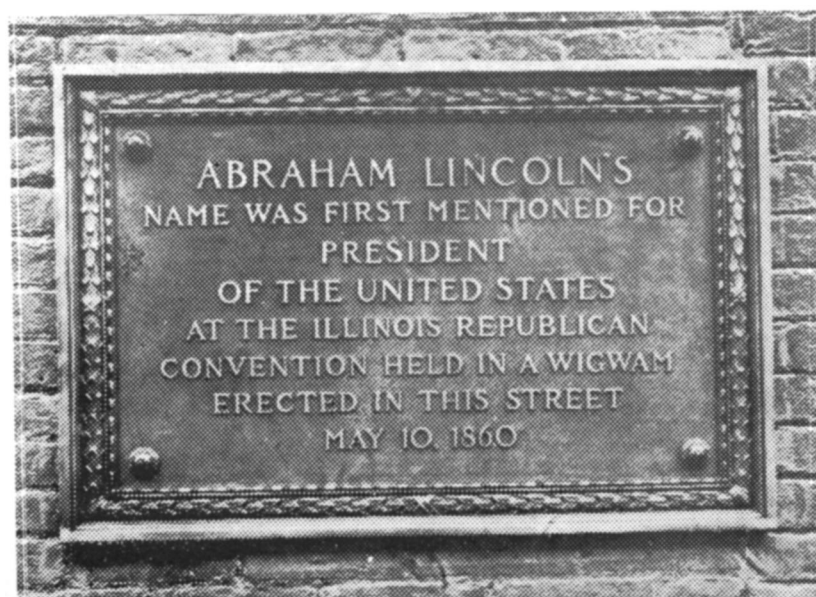
Dedication of the handsome bronze tablet marking the site of the famous "wigwam" convention at which Abraham Lincoln's name was first mentioned for president of the United States, took place Thursday afternoon, June 3, 1915. The exercises were conducted on North State street, Decatur, Illinois, in the rear of the Millikin building, where the tablet had been placed. Stephen Decatur Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was in charge.

Seated on a platform facing the tablet were members of the G. A. R., D. A. R., and St. John's choristers. In a prominent place was Mrs. Jane M. Johns, whose history of Lincoln had much to do with Mrs. George Haworth's starting a movement to mark the site. Mrs. A. T. Summers, Regent of the Stephen Decatur chapter D. A. R., was in charge of the ceremonies and briefly stated that it was fitting that the site of the historic wigwam should be marked.

St. John's choristers opened the exercises, chanting an invocation.

**OWEN SCOTT SPEAKER.**

Owen Scott gave the principal address of the afternoon, and spoke of the great leaders that had been developed in great crises in the affair of the world. He spoke of Washington as a leader in the Revolution; Jefferson, who formulated the human rights and liberties as set forth in the Declaration of



ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S  
NAME WAS FIRST MENTIONED FOR  
PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
AT THE ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN  
CONVENTION HELD IN A WIGWAM  
ERECTED IN THIS STREET  
MAY 10, 1860

Independence and of Hamilton who promulgated a fiscal system.

He followed in a brief way the history of the United States up to and including the struggle of Lincoln and Douglas in slavery times.

"It was here," said Mr. Scott, "in this street, where the first organized movement toward Lincoln's nomination was made. The Republican state convention met in Decatur on May 9 and 10, 1860. The wigwam stood in State street, where we are now congregated. The tablet to be unveiled here is to commemorate the beginning of a movement that has profoundly influenced the whole world. Judge Joseph Gillespie presided over the great gathering here assembled.

#### FAMOUS MEN ATTENDED.

"Men of nation-wide fame in the succeeding years were present. Among these Richard J. Oglesby, then a citizen of Decatur, afterward, three times governor of Illinois and United States senator, was one of the active participants. One historian says he presided over the convention, but the best authorities say that Judge Joseph Gillespie was the chairman.

"John M. Palmer was present. He was governor and United States senator and a gallant general in the war. Joseph Medill, Stephen T. Logan, "Long John" Wentworth, Stephen A. Hurlbut, Owen Lovejoy and many others, afterwards of state and national reputation, were in the convention.

"Governor Oglesby informed the people that a distinguished citizen of Illinois was in the meeting and asked that he be brought to the platform. C. M. Imboden remembers that Lincoln was found in the rear of the assembly, "hunkered down sitting on his heels." The announcement of his presence created such a storm of enthusiasm that it was impossible to push him through the crowd. Stalwart men literally took hold of the six-footer and lifted him over the heads of the people on to the platform.

"It was during the deliberations pertaining to his endorsement for the presidency, that the celebrated rails were brought

upon the stage. At an opportune moment, 'Old John Hanks,' as he was called, and a Mr. Robinson crowded on the platform with two fence rails from the Sangamon bottoms, near Decatur, bearing a banner with these words: 'Abraham Lincoln, the rail-splitter candidate for president in 1860.' Two rails from a lot of 3,000 made in 1830 by John Hanks and Abe Lincoln. Of these Mr. Lincoln said, 'The rails look familiar but I don't know whether I made them or not, but I do know that I made some about as good.'

"These rails were taken from the place where the Lincoln family lived a few miles southwest of this city. The spot where the log cabin stood is marked by an immense boulder with suitable inscription, placed there by Stephen Decatur chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Governor Oglesby presented Lincoln as the candidate of Illinois for the presidency. He was unanimously endorsed amid unbounded enthusiasm. The National Republican convention soon met in Chicago following the one at Decatur. Richard J. Oglesby and W.J. Usrey of this county were chosen as delegates. In this now celebrated convention was Richard Yates who was nominated and elected governor of Illinois. Major F. L. Hays remembers him as a superb specimen of manhood, attracting attention wherever he went. Governor Yates was known throughout the nation as the great war governor. He supported President Lincoln with much ability and enthusiasm.

"Truly Decatur and Macon County are a historic place. Within a few hundred feet of where we now stand will be found another tablet recently placed by the Woman's Relief Corps to commemorate the formation of the greatest fraternal military organization of all time, the Grand Army of the Republic. This band of men who fought under the mighty leader of the time have wielded a vast influence during the half-century since its inception here, April 6, 1866."

Following the singing of "Illinois" by the choir, Rev. W. H. Penhallegon spoke briefly and the tablet was unveiled. He urged that the children be told the story of Lincoln and brought to see the tablet. He suggested that the school chil-

dren on each anniversary of the convention, be brought to the site to commemorate Lincoln's name.

He praised the spirit of Mrs. Haworth in her work to secure the tablet, also the generosity of Orville Gorin and the important facts given by Mrs. Johns and C. A. Imboden. The unveiling exercises were closed with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner."